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*Editorial from The Cleveland Plain Dealer, May 27, 1919*

### A SIGNIFICANT EXHIBITION

In the first annual exhibition of work by Cleveland artists and craftsmen now in progress at the Museum of Art, those who read the signs of the times may discern one of the most significant events in which the Cleveland public has ever been invited to share.

That the public delights in the quality and diversity of the objects shown is proved by the attendance, which has run to nearly 8,000 on a Sunday, and by repeated requests for an extension of the duration of the exhibition, which was originally planned for May only. The Museum now announces that the display in its entirety, including paintings, sculpture and choice handiwork in more than thirty departments, will be continued through June 29. This means that Cleveland men and women whose talents are dedicated to the production of beauty, will have another month in which to send out their message from the white marble treasure-house in Wade Park.

The message is twofold. It is based on the ancient law of supply and demand. The war, by its very horror, has waked the souls of men everywhere to the need of beauty as a relief from such frightful realities. As never before, the quest for the ideal in art has been quickened. Paintings, etchings, bronzes, beautiful fabrics, jeweled ornaments, artistic furnishings down to the commonest articles of everyday use, are being sought for with new eagerness. In music, poetry and the drama, the same quickening is felt.

But this same war has taken the lives of hundreds of thousands of artists and skilled craftsmen. Europe, whence America has always drawn her best designers and workmen, has buried most of her creative skill. Here in America, where the new leaven is working most rapidly, we must train our own boys and girls to take the places of those from the ranks of art who laid down their lives because they saw that real beauty was impossible without freedom.

American art museums and art schools are broadening their facilities to meet this new need. The splendid showing made in the present exhibition is only the first chapter of what the story of Cleveland art will be if proper encouragement is given to local talent.